

# INDIANA TAKES THE CAKE

By Melissa Martin adapted from “Oklahoma Takes the Cake” lesson plan from OKAGE

**Grade Level:** 4<sup>th</sup> grade; can be easily adapted to any grade level and/or mapped area.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this lesson is to engage students in the process of discovery about the landforms of Indiana through the use of maps.

**National Geography Standards Addressed:**

Standard1: The geographically informed person knows and understands how to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process and report.

**Indiana Social Studies Academic Standards Addressed:**

- 4.3.4: Locate Indiana on a map of the United States; indicate the state capital, major cities, and rivers in Indiana and be able to place these on a blank map of the state.
- 4.3.5: Map the physical regions of Indiana, and identify major natural resources and crop regions.
- 4.3.6: Explain how glacial periods shaped Indiana’s landscape and environment.
- 4.3.10: Read and interpret thematic maps, such as transportation, population, and products, to acquire information about Indiana in the present and the past.

**Objectives:** The students will...

- be able to locate the major landforms of Indiana
- be able to locate the major cities of Indiana
- create an edible map with the results of their research

**Materials:**

- Parent Letter (see below)
- Indiana maps and/or atlases – *Indiana in Maps Atlas: Geographic Perspectives of the Hoosier State* (available from the Geography Educators’ Network of Indiana)
- *Indiana Takes the Cake* Project Rubrics (see below)
- *Indiana Takes the Cake* Group Directions (see below)
- *Indiana Takes the Cake* Evaluation Form (see below)
- 4-5 white cake mixes                      - 1 bag Hershey’s Kisses
- 2 bags Red Hot candies                - 1 bag gum drops
- 1 bag Lifesavers (any flavor)        - 2 bag white mini-marshmallows
- 2-3 containers of ready to serve white frosting
- Green food coloring                      - Blue food coloring
- 8 to 10 Ziploc baggies                    - 1 roll of aluminum foil
- Hand sanitizer                            - Small paper plates (enough for entire class)
- 8 to 10 plastic knives                    - Plastic forks (enough for entire class)
- 4 to 5 (11 x 16 inch) rectangular pieces of cardboard
- Camera

**Procedures:**

1. Two weeks prior, send out the parent letters if you wish for the parents to purchase supplies.
2. Prior to starting this project, locate and identify the landforms and cities included in the rubric as a class.
3. Divide the class into 4 – 5 groups and give each child a map of Indiana and project rubric.
4. Instruct each group to follow directions on the rubric using Indiana maps and/or atlases to create their own Indiana maps.
5. The night before the cake activity, bake one sheet cake for each of your groups. Cut the cakes into the shape of Indiana and cover with foil.
6. Mix approximately one-third of the icing with blue food coloring to attain the desired color of blue to be used to represent bodies of water.
7. Mix approximately one-third icing with green food coloring to attain the desired color of green. This will be spread all over the cake to represent southern IN.
8. Mix approximately one-third of the icing brown to represent the northern part of the state.
9. Divide the blue, green and brown icing into baggies for each group.
10. On the day of the activity, provide each group of students with the following supplies: an Indiana shaped cake, one baggie of blue, green and brown icing, two plastic knives, 1 Hershey's Kiss, one baggie full of Mini Marshmallows, approximately 10 Red Hot candies, one red gum drop, 1 Lifesaver, graded copies of the Indiana map and rubric, and one copy of the group directions each.
11. Instruct students to take turns following the group directions.
12. When the students have finished, place the group number next to the cake and take a photograph. This will allow you to grade the cakes at a later time.

**Assessment:**

Give each group member a copy of the evaluation form to complete based on the group's cake. Then, they may cut the cake and eat it. Have the students share with their group members what Indiana landform they are eating.

**Extensions:**

Have students make the cakes and mix icing.

Assign each group a different type of Indiana map/cake...

\*use edible paper (like the one used by your local grocery store bakery) to make outlines of... [counties](#), [hydrology](#), state parks, population, congressional districts

## **Indiana Takes the Cake Project Rubric**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Complete the following items of this rubric on the map given to you by your teacher.

1. Mark the highest point with an “x”  
Mark the lowest point with an “o”
2. Draw and label the following rivers...  
Wabash, Ohio, Tippecanoe, Kankakee, White
3. Label Lake Michigan
4. Draw and label the major interstate systems
5. Mark Indianapolis with a star
6. Mark major cities with a dot  
Evansville, Fort Wayne, Gary, Lafayette  
South Bend, Terre Haute, Your city or town
7. Draw in the approximate line of the Wisconsin Glacial limit
8. Label the four neighboring states
9. Did you spell all words correctly? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Did you put your name and date on your paper? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Did you include a legend with your map? \_\_\_\_\_

# Indiana Takes the Cake Project

## Parent Letter

Date

Dear Parents,

In Social Studies, we will be doing a project called “Indiana Takes The Cake.” This project will help the students learn the major landforms and cities of Indiana in an extremely tasty way. If you would like to contribute to this project, please purchase the circled item below and send it to school with your child by \_\_\_\_\_(date).

Also, if you are willing to be part of this delicious project, please contact me at\_\_\_\_\_.

Please accept my advance appreciation for your help.

Sincerely,

white cake mix

bag of Hershey Kisses

bag of Lifesavers

bag of Red Hots

bag of gum drops

white frosting

bag of Mini Marshmallows

Sandwich size Ziplock baggies

Small paper plates

plastic knives

# **Indiana Takes the Cake**

## ***Group Directions:***

1. Spread the green icing over the area south of the Wisconsin Glacial limit on the cake.
2. Spread the brown icing over the area north of the Wisconsin Glacial limit.
3. Squeeze the blue icing out of the hole in the baggie for the following rivers:
  - Ohio River
  - Wabash River
  - White River
  - Kankakee River
  - Tippecanoe River
4. Squeeze out the blue icing for the following lakes:
  - Lake Michigan
  - Monroe Lake
  - Mississinewa Reservoir
5. Place the Hershey's Kiss for the following "mountain":
  - Wayne County: highest point in Indiana 1257 feet above sea level
6. Place a Lifesaver in Posey County: lowest point in Indiana 324 feet above sea level
7. Use a toothpick and "flag" to mark each point in #5 and #6
8. Use mini-marshmallows for the following interstate routes
  - I-65
  - I-70
  - I-74
  - I-69
  - I-80/90
  - I-64
9. Place Red Hot candies for the following cities:
  - Evansville
  - Fort Wayne
  - Gary
  - Lafayette
  - South Bend
  - Terre Haute
  - Your city or town
10. Place a gum drop for Indianapolis.
11. Fill out your evaluation form.
12. Cut the cake, eat, and enjoy!

# Indiana Takes the Cake Evaluation Form

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Answer the following questions using complete sentences. After you have decorated your cake, have your teacher take a picture of it. Finally, cut the cake, eat, and enjoy!

1. How did your group represent the area south of the Wisconsin Glacial Limit? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What did your group use to represent the “Mountains”?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How did your group represent the area north of the Wisconsin Glacial Limit? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What did your group use to represent the Rivers?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What did your group use to represent the Lakes?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What did your group use to represent the State Capital?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What did your group use to represent the other towns or cities?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Where is the highest point in Indiana?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Where is the lowest point in Indiana? What landforms do you find at this point?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Name the five **major** rivers in Indiana.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Name three lakes in Indiana.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. What role did you play in the group and how would you rate the group's performance?